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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,355	04/05/2001	Dekang Lin	328-2US	4017

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EXAMINER

SHORTLEDGE, THOMAS E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,355

Applicant(s)

LIN ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas E. Shortledge

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the interview with the applicant on March 8, 2006.
2. Claims 1-19 are pending.
3. The 102(b) and 103(a) rejections of claims 1-19 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-6, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richardson et al. (MindNet: acquiring and structuring semantic information from text).

As to claims 1 and 14, Richardson et al. teach:

- parsing text to identify paths formed by concatenated relationships between words in the text (parsing the text to extract semantic relations, page 1098, col. 1, section 4); and

- generating a database of interface rules comprising pairs of semantically equivalent paths by associating, in a computer, paths with each other based on a similarity measure between the paths (generating a list of relationships consisting of one or more semantic relations connected together, creating semrel paths between two words, these are then weighted to find the best paths, table 3, page 1100); and
- computer readable media containing instructions (using MindNet in a computer, col. 1, page 1098).

As to claims 2 and 15, Richardson et al. teach the similarity measure is based on the frequency of occurrence of words in the paths (weights are based on frequency of occurrence, page 1100, col. 1, section 7).

As to claims 3 and 16, Richardson et al. teach the words are at the end points of the paths (the weight of the path is based on the words at the end points of the paths, Table 3, page 1100).

As to claims 4 and 17, Richardson et al. teach the step of associating paths with each other comprises the step of counting occurrences of words at the end points of specific paths (linking paths based on the occurrences of the words at the end points in the paths, page 1100, col. 2, Table 3).

As to claims 5 and 18, Richardson et al. teach associating paths comprises the step of comparing counts of occurrences of words and associating paths on the counts of occurrences of the words (creating weights for the linked paths by finding the occurrences of the words in the path, page 1100, col. 1, and Table 3, col. 2).

As to claims 6 and 19, Richardson et al. teach the similarity measure exceeds a threshold (paths are related when a similarity exceeds a similarity condition in the path, where it would be inherent that since the condition is similarity based it would be a threshold, col. 1, page 1101).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 7, 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of the applicants' prior art.

As to claim 7, Richardson et al. do not teach:

- initiating a search for electronic information; nor
- expanding the search by reference to associated paths in a database constructed according to the method of claim 1.

However, the applicants' indicated prior art teaches it is known in the art of information retrieval to identify phrasal terms from queries and generate variants for query expansion (specification page 2, lines 20-25).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Richardson et al. with the query expansion method as described by the applicants' prior art since query expansion is now to promote effective retrieval of information as disclosed in the applicants' prior art (specification page 2, lines 20-25).

As to claim 9, Richardson et al. teach the similarity measure is based on the frequency of occurrence of words in the paths (weights are based on frequency of occurrence, page 1100, col. 1, section 7).

As to claim 10, Richardson et al. teach the words are at the end points of the paths (the weight of the path is based on the words at the end points of the paths, Table 3, page 1100).

As to claim 11, Richardson et al. teach the step of associating paths with each other comprises the step of counting occurrences of words at the end points of specific

paths (linking paths based on the occurrences of the words at the end points in the paths, page 1100, col. 2, Table 3).

As to claim 12, Richardson et al. teach associating paths comprises the step of comparing counts of occurrences of words and associating paths on the counts of occurrences of the words (creating weights for the linked paths by finding the occurrences of the words in the path, page 1100, col. 1, and Table 3, col. 2).

As to claim 13, Richardson et al. teach the similarity measure exceeds a threshold (paths are related when a similarity exceeds a similarity condition in the path, where it would be inherent that since the condition is similarity based it would be a threshold, col. 1, page 1101).

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson et al. in view of the applicants' prior art as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Zadrozny et al. (5,937,385).

As to claim 8, Richardson et al. and the applicant's prior art do not teach the search is initiated from a location remote from the location of the database.

However, Zadrozny et al. teach initiating the search from a remote location (Fig. 1A).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Richardson et al. with the query expansion method of the applicants' prior art and with the remote search technique of Zadrozny et al. to increase the flexibility of the system, as more user can connect to the system from different locations, as taught by Zadrozny et al. (col. 1, lines 15-20).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas E. Shortledge whose telephone number is (571)272-7612. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571)272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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TS
4/13/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vijay Chawan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**VIJAY CHAWAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**